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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 017344/0321

Applicant: Iwao MATSUSHIMA et al.

Title: PRODUCTION SYSTEM WHEREIN FABRICATION DATA ARE
COLLECTED USING FABRICATION STATE INDICATING LAMP
CONTROL SIGNALS

Serial No. 10/026,430

Filed: December 27, 2001

Examiner: Unknown

Art Unit: 2632

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APR 29 2004

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56 and 37 CFR §1.97**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a prima facie prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is believed to be filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b), prior to the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits (first scenario). If that is not the case, such as in a second scenario in which a first Office Action on the merits has been mailed before the filing of the instant Information Disclosure Statement, then either a certification or fee is required, and a certification is provided below. If neither of the first or second scenarios is the case, such as if a final Office Action or a notice of allowance has been mailed by the PTO (third scenario), then both a certification and fee are required, and in that case a certification is provided below and also the PTO is authorized to obtain the necessary fee to have the instant IDS considered, from Foley & Lardner Deposit Account #19-0741.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned hereby certifies in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Statement. .

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

A translation of a portion of a Korean Office Action that issued March 29, 2004 with respect to a counterpart Korean patent application is provided below.

"The inventions described in Claims 1 through 11 relate to production systems wherein light-emitting towers are equipped, and thus even though they are characterized in terms of structure as including a lamp control signal monitor that stores data indicating the amount of continuous time and the end time of when the power supply is supplied to/cut off from the lamp, Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H11-143527 (the cited invention, with a publication date of 5/28/1999), which was published prior to the date of the priority claims of the present invention, describes a signal illumination device and receiver device that can easily obtain the aforementioned information through the

transmission of operating status information to an external receiver device through an infrared beam from a signal illumination device that makes the operating status known by being lit or flashing, connected to a production machine, an automatic control panel, a production line, for the like, and so, in this regard, both inventions are the same in the object of the invention being that of a production system that uses flashing lamps, and identical in structure in that a lamp or a signal tower is added to an existing production system and a control device able to control [said lamp or signal tower] is added [to the existing production system], and even though there are differences in the specific operating processes, these are no more than differences of a degree that can be achieved easily by an individual in the industry.

(Attachment)

Attachment 1: Japanese Unexamined Patent Application
Publication H11-143527, 1 photocopy"

Applicant's statements regarding the Korean Office Action is based on a partial translation that Applicant's representative obtained. This statement should in no way be considered as an agreement by Applicant with, or an admission of, what is asserted in the Korean Office Action.

Applicants respectfully request that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and formally be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,

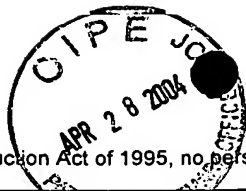
Date

April 28, 2004

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Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031
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Substitute for form 1449B PTO		Complete if Known			
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: April 28, 2004 (use as many sheets as necessary)		Application Number	10/026,430		
		Filing Date	12/27/2001		
		First Named Inventor	Iwao MATSUSHIMA		
		Group Art Unit	2632		
		Examiner Name	Unknown		
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	017344-0321

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	A1	JP	11-143527			05/28/1999		ABS

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶

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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.